

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording medium in which an underlayer for leading perpendicular orientation of a perpendicular magnetic recording layer is stacked between a substrate and the perpendicular magnetic recording layer, wherein the thickness of the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is controlled within the range of 5-40 nm to have a negative nucleation field, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is formed of Co-Cr-Pt-alloy and wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording medium further comprises Ta, Nb, or Ta+Nb in an amount of less than 4 atomic %.

2. (Original) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer contains 8-20 atomic % Pt.

3. (Original) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer contains 11-20 atomic % Pt.

4. (Original) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer contains 11-18 atomic % Pt.

5. (Original) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer contains 12-20 atomic % Cr.

6. (Original) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer contains 14-17 atomic % Cr.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim ~~[[7]]~~ 15, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer contains 11-20 atomic % Pt.

9. (Currently Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim ~~[[7]]~~ 15, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer contains 11-18 atomic % Pt.

10. (Currently Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim ~~[[7]]~~ 15, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer contains 12-20 atomic % Cr.

11. (Currently Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim ~~[[7]]~~ 15, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer contains 14-17 atomic % Cr.

12. (Currently Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim ~~[[7]]~~ 15, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is formed of Co-Cr-Pt-alloy containing 8-20 atomic % Pt and 12-20 atomic % Cr.

13. (Currently Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim ~~[[7]]~~ 15, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer further comprises Ta, Nb, or Ta+Nb in an amount of less than 4 atomic %.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 7,~~ A perpendicular magnetic recording medium in which an underlayer for leading perpendicular orientation of a perpendicular magnetic recording layer is stacked between a substrate and the perpendicular magnetic recording layer, wherein the thickness of the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is controlled within the range of 5-40 nm to have a negative nucleation field, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is formed of Co-Cr-Pt-alloy, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer further comprises Ta, Nb, or Ta+Nb in an amount of less than 2-4 atomic %.

16. (Original) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the under layer is formed of Ti-alloy.